

From the Editor

Yikes! Already nearly the middle of November. At least my phone has quit ringing with robo-callers and my mailbox isn't overflowing on a daily basis with political junk mail. But Wait! There is still one more election scheduled that is important to you as a member of the Radio Club of Tacoma.

At the Annual Meeting on November 14, election of officers will be held, and voting will occur on proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the RCT. More information can be found on the club website w7dk.org. Remember, your vote is important.

Other upcoming events are the November Sweepstakes Contest on November 17th and 18th, the Awards Banquet on December 8th, and one of my favorite events, Straight Key Night on December 31.

Also just around the corner we'll hopefully again have an opportunity to Freeze Your Buns Off in early February.

If you aren't yet familiar with SOTA, take time to check it out! SOTA stands for Summits On The Air. Several club members have been working hard this year activating peaks and chasing other activators. It was a blast this past Saturday hearing Rich KR7W and Chuck AC7QN up on Ladd Mountain. They were making contacts all over the country pushing only about 5-8 watts. Their signal was so good that they managed to find themselves the target of several pile ups.

If you haven't been to the clubhouse lately, be sure to check out the progress being made by the gang tasked with Internet Technology improvements.

My personal favorite story in The Bark this month comes from long-time member Bob K7MXE. Be sure to read about it on page 8 of this issue. I'm certain it will bring a smile to your face. Thanks Bob for sharing it.

-73 - W7MWF Mike

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**Board of Directors Meeting
3 October, 2012**

The 3 October 2012 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. President Gary WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board Member	Al Ferguson N7OMS
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	James Mendenhall KE6WHN

Minutes:

**The minutes of the 5 September 2012
Board meeting, as coordinated and corrected, were approved without objection.**

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Mike Elwell W7GHW's XYL is reported to have fallen and is in a coma. Casey Hicks WY7V has also fallen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: KD4VOM reports the following correspondence;

- Utility Bills
- Bank Statements
- Salmon Run Pledges
- Electric Radio
- Newsletters

TREASURER'S REPORT: Larry KD4VOM circulated the monthly financial report provided by Bob AD7LJ.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the financial report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Larry KD4VOM has been working with Rick Van Every N7YFE reconciling the membership database and active member roster. They will work to get the current .pdf roster to the Board members and Website

RCT Information Technology Committee:— Randy Myers WB4SBP

Randy reviewed the progress made in setting up and testing the initial system. So far the desktop has been constructed and is operational. The 42 inch Television has been purchased, mounted and connected. W7EP's Flex SDR has been connected and set up. The following items have been received and

await installation and checkout: the Synology Network Attached Storage, Hard Drive/s and the docking station, and the UPS. Thus far, the proof of concept system seems to be working as expected.

There was a discussion of whether we should move promptly to purchase the remaining two desktop system components to avoid any possible differences which might accrue from technology or hardware construction changes.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize the expenditure of up to \$ 1,500.00 to purchase the second and third desktop system components.

Randy WB4SBP tabled a one-time purchase to upgrade our internet wideband modem to take advantage of a faster connection.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to spend \$ 40.00 to purchase a new internet modem.

Repeater Committee: No Report

There was a discussion on why the repeater tone off and other settings, e.g. IRLP are not timed correctly. It was the sense of the Board that the Net Controllers at a minimum should have the codes to make those changes when required.

Also expressed was a concern that the Repeater Committee doesn't seem to be functioning as a committee and that Nick K7MO has identified several potentially costly future repeater maintenance issues that need attention.

Hamfest: Larry KD4VOM has circulated the Executive Summary of the 2012 Hamfest for review by the Board and related club managers. We are still awaiting the Bethel School District facility invoice. Based on previous years, this should be in the \$500.00 range, leaving around \$ 1,000.00 to be transferred to the general checking account.

There was a reminder that the current Hamfest team has retired, and it was agreed that following the election of officers in November a meeting should be planned to explore the Hamfest options available to the club.

President Gary WG7X noted that we need to start now to resolve the Hamfest Issue. There was a recommendation that we form a group after the elec-

tions when the new officers and directors were known.

Property Management:

The Tower auction was completed and brought in \$230.00.

Elections:

The Nominating committee has been appointed, and will present their nominations at the 10 October meeting. After nominations from the floor, the President will appoint the Election Committee.

Emergency Operations Plan: Larry Watson KD4VOM

reports that scheduling problems and vacations continue to delay the planned RCT EmComm meeting. Work continues to establish a date and location for the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Salmon Run: **Larry KD4VOM** noted that many of the Salmon Run Pledge responses have been received. The next step would be to notify those who made per county or custom pledges of the amount owed. So far in this year's Salmon Run \$1,770.00 has been received, and with the additional pledges should rise to \$2,423.00

It was noted that a thank yous to those who participated and donated to the Salmon Run should be accomplished, along with general membership notice on how the money has been spent.

RCT Bylaws Revision: Larry KD4VOM

As required by the current Bylaws; The Proposed Bylaws were put in the mail today.

Silent Key Policy: Larry KD4VOM is working on preparing a draft Silent Key policy.

NEW BUSINESS:**ARRL Elections:**

Larry, KD4VOM reminded all that there are ARRL elections coming up in October/November for both the ARRL Western Washington Division Director, and Vice Director.

- Current ARRL Northwestern Division Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, of Vancouver, Washington, will face challenger William Balzarini, KL7BB, of

Auburn, Washington. Fenstermaker has served as Director since 2005. Prior to being elected as Director, Fenstermaker was appointed Northwestern Division Vice Director in 1999, replacing Greg Milnes, W7AGQ, when Milnes moved up to Director upon the death of then-Director Mary Lou Brown, NM7N.

- Incumbent ARRL Northwestern Division Vice Director Grant Hopper, KB7WSD, of Everett, Washington, chose not to seek election for his first full term as Vice Director of the ARRL's Northwestern Division. Hopper was appointed Vice Director in February 2010 when the position became vacant when no one submitted the necessary election materials needed to run for the Vice Director during the regular election cycle. Three hams are vying to be the next Northwestern Division Vice Director: James Pace, K7CEX, of Centralia, Washington; William Sawders, K7ZM, of La Pine, Oregon, and Daniel Stevens, KL7WM, of Kent, Washington.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

W7DK Operating Events: Al N7OMS asked when the next Club operating/contest event is coming... General discussion centered around the upcoming November Sweepstakes. Will there be any preparation, training opportunities to learn contesting?

Bark article to invite folks to a practice session to warm-up for the November Sweepstakes phone contest.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm



RCT General Meetings

General Meeting Notes 10 October, 2012

10 October 2012 Meeting Notes

The 10 October General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. President Gary McAdams called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President	Casey Hicks WY7V
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer	Bob Purdom AD7LJ
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	James Mendenhall KE6WHN
Board	Nick Winter K7MO

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 37 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Gary WG7X

INTRODUCTIONS: Guest and Self introductions were completed.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

Mike Elwell W7GHW's XYL has passed away. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Correspondence:

Utility bills
Bank Statements
Newsletters
Electric Radio
QSL Cards
Salmon Run Pledges

Treasurer: Bob AD7LJ passed the Field Day Piggy around for donations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VE Report: John Clarke AC7WW

We had a full house on Tuesday October 9, 2012. Thirty five elements from 20 candidates were graded by seven Volunteer Examiners. Twenty elements were passed with fifteen failed. Results of the session

were ten new Technicians, six Generals and one Extra.

One candidate that passed his Technician exam is going to use amateur radio to communicate with a balloon that he is going to launch as a high school science project.

Three candidates failed to earn an initial license.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Steve, AD7VL	Leonard, KA7NWF
Jan, K7HTU	Rich, KK7VH
Stephen, AD7AB	Mike, AD7TH

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday November 13, 2012.

Salmon Run – Gary WG7X reminded members to get their Salmon Run Pledges in.

Bylaws Revision: Larry KD4VOM noted that members should have received a copy of the Bylaws. The ballot will be held at the 14 November annual membership meeting.

Nominating Committee: Joe Lester, K7ZG reported the committee's nominations for the 2012 election.

For President: Gary McAdams WG7X

For Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ

For Board Position 2: James Mendenhall KE6WHN

For Board Position 4: Nick Winter K7MO

A call for nominations from the floor yielded none.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Nominating Committee's report

Election Committee President Gary WG7X appointed Casey Hicks WY7V as chairperson of the Election Committee.

Ballots will be mailed to active members, and must be returned postmarked not later than 5 November, or presented to the club Secretary before the 14 November Annual Membership Meeting begins.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ARDF Transmitter Hunt: Rich KR7W announced a "Find my car" vehicle hidden transmitter hunt for this

weekend. The target will be within 30 miles of the clubhouse, and will start at the clubhouse around 10 am Saturday. Rich recommends two member teams to facilitate the hunting and using the Club repeater as a coordination frequency. Check the w7dk.org website for details and rules.

ARRL Elections: Larry, KD4VOM reminded all that there are ARRL elections coming up next month for both the ARRL Western Washington Division Director, and Vice Director.

- Current ARRL Northwestern Division Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, of Vancouver, Washington, will face challenger William Balzarini, KL7BB, of Auburn, Washington. Fenstermaker has served as Director since 2005. Prior to being elected as Director, Fenstermaker was appointed Northwestern Division Vice Director in 1999, replacing Greg Milnes, W7AGQ, when Milnes moved up to Director upon the death of then-Director Mary Lou Brown, NM7N. Incumbent ARRL Northwestern Division Vice Director Grant Hopper, KB7WSD, of Everett, Washington, chose not to seek election for his first full term as Vice Director of the ARRL's Northwestern Division. Hopper was appointed Vice Director in February 2010 when the position became vacant when no one submitted the necessary election materials needed to run for the Vice Director during the regular election cycle. Three hams are vying to be the next Northwestern Division Vice Director: James Pace, K7CEX, of Centralia, Wash-

ington; William Sawders, K7ZM, of La Pine, Oregon, and Daniel Stevens, KL7WM, of Kent, Washington.

PROGRAM: Operating Portable HF in the Field: Presented by ARRL Northwestern Division Vice Director Grant Hopper, KB7WSD

Grant outlined his interest in field HF operating, and transition from early "Portable" operations to later, lighter gear and finally to the ultra-light and generally QRP equipment.

He presented background logic behind the process he evolved to insure field operations were preplanned, checked at home before deployment and weight minimized. Power/weight and time considerations were reviewed and options discussed.

Grant displayed a wide array of gear he uses in the pursuit of his field operations.

SHOW AND TELL:

Rich Patrick KR7W displayed and demonstrated a collapsible field 2 meter antenna made from PVC pipe, bungee cord, wire and coax.

DOOR PRIZES: A Practical Wire Antenna book was won by Paul KF7PFU.

RAFFLE PRIZE: The Homebrew Transmitter Switch Raffle Prize was won by Mike W7XTZ.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

The RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA needs your donations...

IF YOU HAVE UNWANTED OR UNNEEDED AMATEUR RADIO

OR RELATED EQUIPMENT.

DONATIONS PLAY A BIG PART IN FUNDING THE OPERATION OF RCT.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING IT TO THE CLUB

**If you have something to donate please contact
Frank Palmer AC7JY, Property Management Team Leader
or any member of the property management team.**

General Meeting Notes 24 October, 2012

The 24 October General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Gary McAdams called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President	Casey Hicks WY7V
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	James Mendenhall KE6WHN
Board	Nick Winter K7MO

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 42 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Vice President Casey WY7V.

INTRODUCTIONS: Guest and Self introductions were completed. There were several new hams.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: None reported

Correspondence:

Letter from N3MO
W7DK 2011 Sweepstakes Award
Utility bills
Bank Statements
Newsletters
Electric Radio
QSL Cards
Election Ballots
Salmon Run Pledges

Treasurer: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Salmon Run – Pledges need to be paid.

Bylaws Revision: Larry KD4VOM noted that members should have received a copy of the Bylaws. The ballot will be held at the 14 November annual membership meeting.

Election:

Ballots have been mailed to active members, and must be returned postmarked not later than 5 November, or presented to the club Secretary before the 14 November Annual Membership Meeting begins.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

N7MO Thank You Letter: Vice President Casey WY7V read a letter of appreciation received from Eston Dale Fultz N3MO, who was present at the meeting. Dale's letter of appreciation thanked the Radio Club of Tacoma, and specifically our Volunteer Examiner program headed by John Clarke AC7WW for their support of a Montana candidate, now Ham, Bob Holcomb KE7XK who needed special testing support. John and his crew, Stephan Morton AD7AB and Jan Gilbertson K7HTU. Bob's short trip to Tacoma was running out and he wanted to try the Extra license exam. John and his team arranged a special session where Bob tested and passed his Extra class examination. Dale tells us that he has travelled back to Big Fork, Montana, and can report that Bob has a full up operating station is on the air.

ARRL Elections: Larry, KD4VOM reminded all that there are ARRL elections coming up next month for both the ARRL Western Washington Division Director, and Vice Director.

- Current ARRL Northwestern Division Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, of Vancouver, Washington, will face challenger William Balzarini, KL7BB, of Auburn, Washington. Fenstermaker has served as Director since 2005. Prior to being elected as Director, Fenstermaker was appointed Northwestern Division Vice Director in 1999, replacing Greg Milnes, W7AGQ, when Milnes moved up to Director upon the death of then-Director Mary Lou Brown, NM7N.
- Incumbent ARRL Northwestern Division Vice Director Grant Hopper, KB7WSD, of Everett, Washington, chose not to seek election for his first full term as Vice Director of the ARRL's Northwestern Division. Hopper, a Washington State Attorney and Volunteer Counsel for amateur radio, was appointed Vice Director in February 2010 when

the position became vacant when no one submitted the necessary election materials needed to run for the Vice Director during the regular election cycle. Three hams are vying to be the next Northwestern Division Vice Director: James Pace, K7CEX, of Centralia, Washington; William Sawders, K7ZM, of La Pine, Oregon, and Daniel Stevens, KL7WM, of Kent, Washington.

PROGRAM: Video: Basic Soldering Skills and what to use:

TUNING AND TRAFFIC: Lots of operating opportunities coming up with the annual fall Sweepstakes and

CQ World Wide Sideband events.

DOOR PRIZES: A Power Worx T shirt was won by new ham KF7ZBJ. The Hamspeak book was picked up by Rick N7YFE.

RAFFLE PRIZE: Field Strength meters were won by AD7WU and KF7HGT.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

A View at the RCT Clubhouse



Club member David W7HTJ tries his hand at the newly installed computer terminal and presentation screen in the Lou Room. David is getting some hands-on time with the Flex 3000 graciously lent to the club by Bruce WE7P. Spearheading the IT upgrades have been IT Chairman Randy WB4SPB and Board Member Al N7OMS. (Photo courtesy Harry N7DOE)



OLDER THAN DIRT!

Club Member Bob K7MXE recently had a 52-year old QSL card returned to him. For the rest of the story, read below the correspondence that accompanied the card. Note that Bob was 13 years old.



Hi Bob!

So my wife and I were up in Poulsbo this afternoon bumming around an antique mall, when I found a small stack of QSL cards for sale. I always look at them but never buy any - just fun to look at.

But one really popped out - YOURS!! The reason is your old address, 3328 Sunset Drive in what is now University Place, is just a few blocks from my house! We live on [redacted by editor], which is a small cul-de-sac right off Sunset. So we drove by your house on the way home, and I did some Googling and here we are!

I've scanned your card below. I also looked up who you had the QSO with - W7HYJ - a Dr. Vincent Nitzke, who alas passed away back in 1990 and is buried in Oregon. The odd part is how in the world did your QSL card end up in an antique store on the Peninsula!

Anyway, one of these days I'd like it if we hooked up on either HF, 6m, or a 2m repeater - I'd love to hear what this area was like back in 1960 - the year before I was born. I'm active on all bands, and work from home so I'm pretty reachable - I can hit all the major Puget Sound repeaters no problem.

Take care - hope all is well & best of 73,
Dave

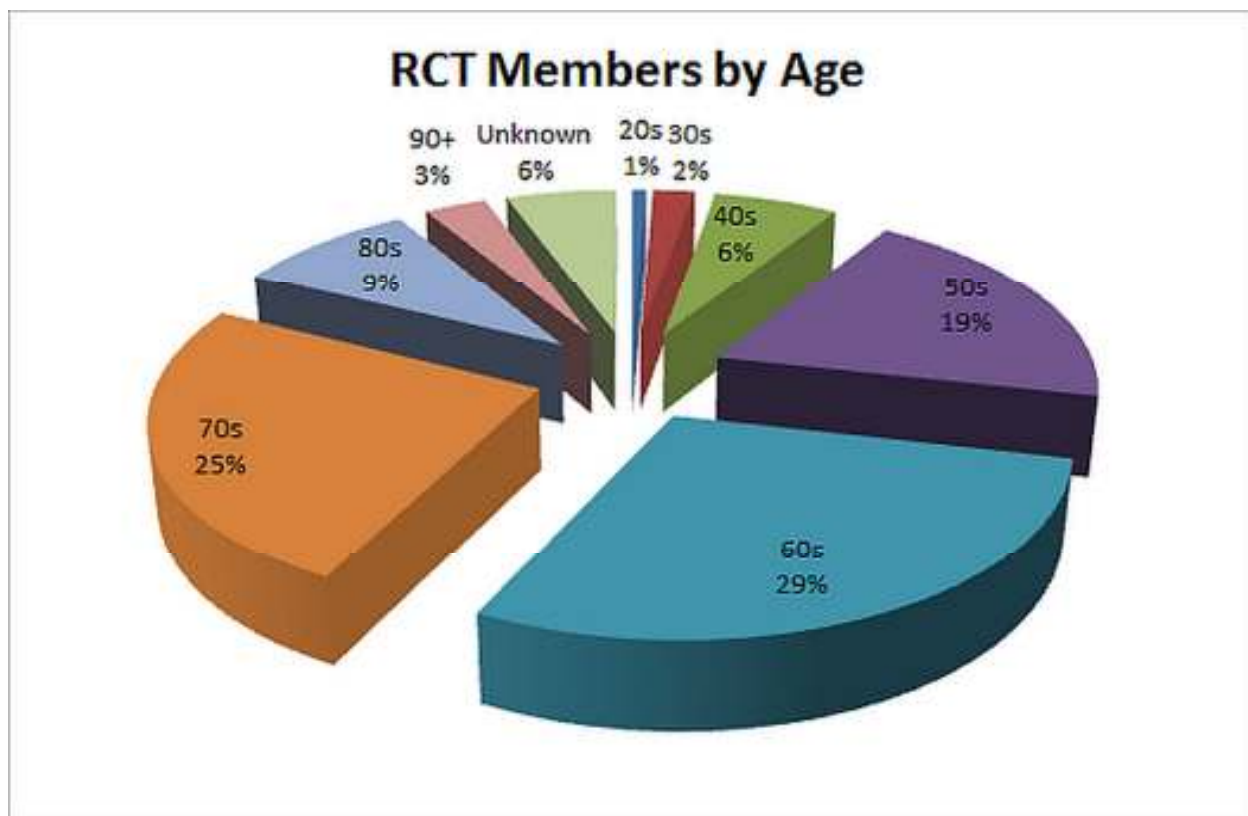
**IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!!**

**Don't forget
At the Annual Meeting of the Radio Club of Tacoma
November 14, 2012**

**Election of Officers
Amendments to the Bylaws**

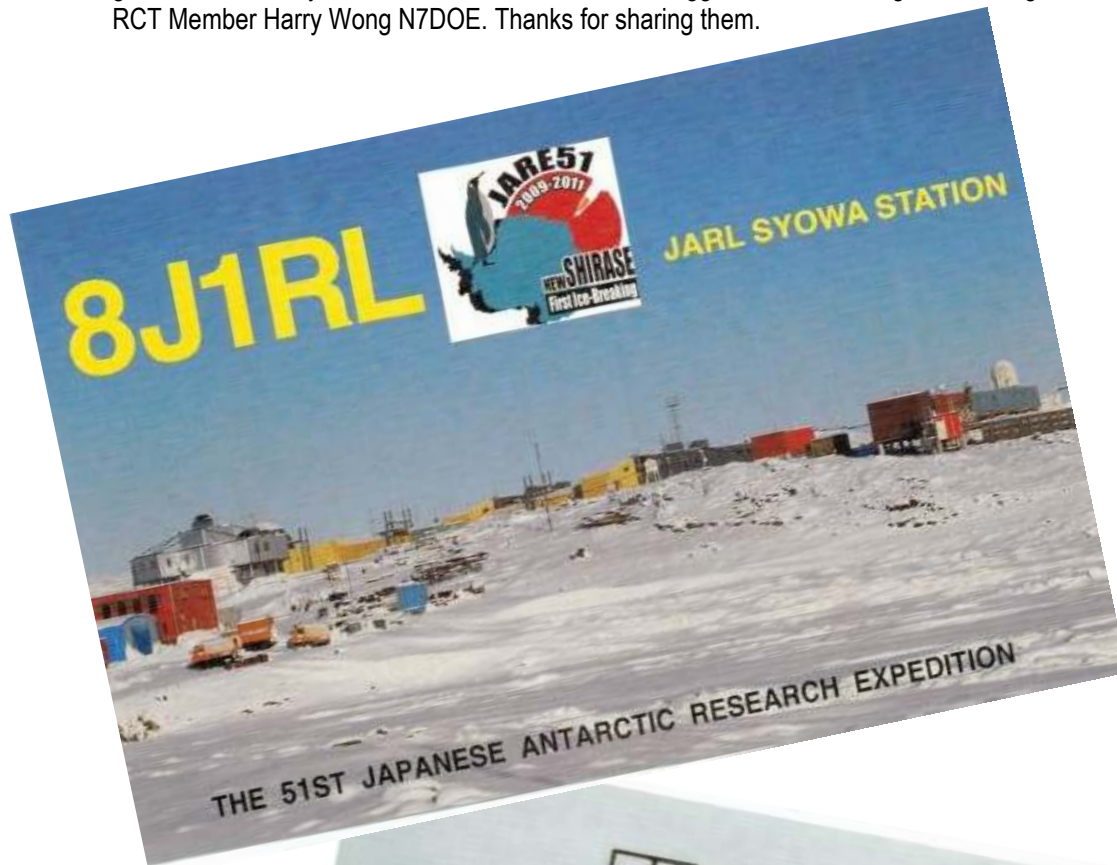
Mostly out of idle curiosity, your editor recently decided to take a look at the age distribution of the membership of the Radio Club of Tacoma. Most noticeable to me is that right at two-thirds, yep, $2/3$, a whopping 66% of our membership is 60 years or older.

Hat's off to those members who recently spent time at the Western Washington Fair and at the Boy Scout Jamboree, talking to youngsters and enlightening them about the wonderful world of ham radio. And let's each try to make an effort to do our part to recruit potential new ham radio aficionados. The life of the club depends on it, in the long run.



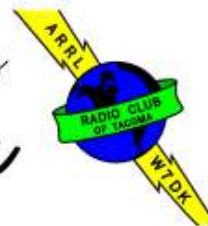
Operator's Wallpaper

If you have any special, or cool, or unique, or simply beautiful QSL cards in your collection that you'd like to share, please scan (high resolution is preferred) and email to the Bark Editor w7dk-news@earthlink.net. If you can't get them scanned, bring them along to the clubhouse on a Saturday and I'll run home and scan them real quick and give them back to you. In this month's issue of The Logger's Bark we're again featuring cards from the collection of RCT Member Harry Wong N7DOE. Thanks for sharing them.





The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



The Logger's Bark is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA...** and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

Club Officers

President: Gary McAdams WG7X 253-984-0868 email to wg7x@w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Casey Hicks WY7V email to wy7v@w7dk.org

Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM email to kd4vom@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ email to ad7lj@w7dk.org

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Ferguson, N7OMS email to n7oms@w7dk.org

James Mendenhall KE6WHN email to ke6whn@w7dk.org

Glen Galati KA7BOJ email to ka7boj@w7dk.org

Nick Winter K7MO email to k7mo@w7dk.org

Bruce Hanson WE7P email to we7p@w7dk.org

Logger's Bark Staff

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Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma...

Send articles to: w7dk-news@earthlink.net or Bark, 1506 N Stevens St, Tacoma, WA 98406

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org. If a condensed paper copy is needed... then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

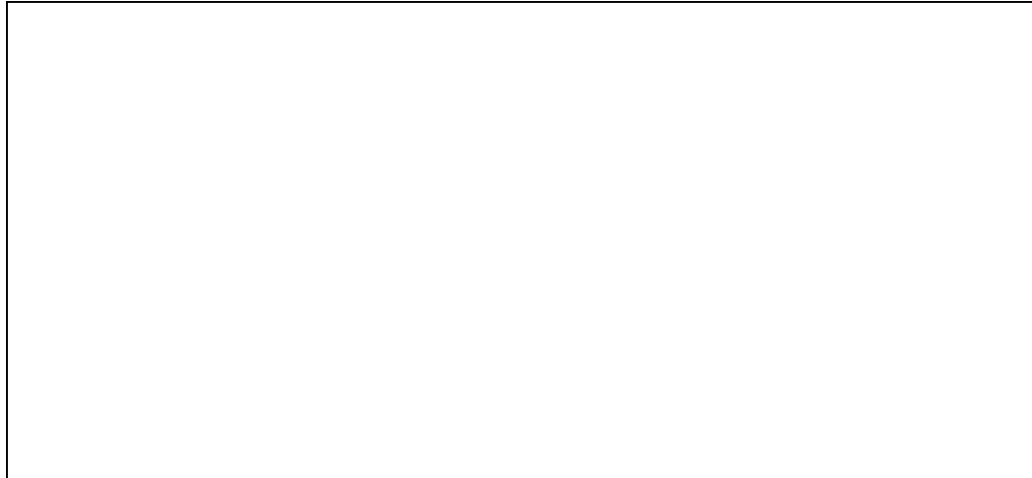
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.280 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



November 2012 RCT Events

ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF OFFICERS, BYLAWS ON NOVEMBER 14th!

CLUB MEETINGS: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .